Voting of Demands for Grants—*(cont.)*
24. Public Health—Rs. 1,40,368.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I move for an allotment of Rs. 1,40,368 for Public Health. I have generally touched on this subject and I do not wish to say anything at present. There are a number of cut motions under this head, and as the hon'ble members move them, I may have a chance to explain the various points raised. I do not now propose to make any remarks on this subject.

Cut Motion No. 1.
The need for removing the mosquito nuisance in the State.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,130 for Sanitation works proper Kunnamkulam Improvement Scheme by Re. 1. (To discuss the need for removing the mosquito nuisance in the State and for investigating into the unprecedented menace of mosquitoes in the Villages around Mulanthuruthi in the months of Meenam and Medam last.)*

I do not think, Sir, that either facts or figures are necessary to support my statement, that the mosquito nuisance in the State is very great especially in the littoral tracts of the State. I am gratified to find, from a reply to a question of my hon'ble friend, Mr. Moothedan, that the Government has recognised the vastness of the nuisance and that some steps have been taken by the Government in this matter. While we are thankful to the Government for the steps already taken, I wish to impress upon the Government the necessity of making more efforts in that direction. It is also brought to our notice now by the answer from the Government that a particular type of mosquitoes, the stegomyia variety, exist in great numbers in the State. We are obliged to the Government for the survey, and for the information supplied to us. The Government have further remarked that it is a very harmful kind of mosquito, transmitting, as they do, a very dangerous disease—the yellow fever—the very name of that fever is enough to make us all shudder with the dreadful possibilities.

Then there is also another variety of mosquitoes which carry malaria. I am only a layman and I cannot go into the correctness of the theory—theorists say that even filarial fever is caused by mosquitoes. I do not know whether any other kind of disease is caused by mosquitoes. But the fact remains that this nuisance has to be eradicated at any cost. Those people who live in Ernakulam and Mattancheri and those living in the littoral tracts know how impossible it is for people to sleep. It is not possible for everybody to get mosquito nets. In some parts of the year, unless you have got electric fans, it will be impossible to sleep within mosquito curtains.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

And now, since Ernakulam and Cochin are becoming towns of world importance it is necessary in the interests of the State and the prosperity of the harbour to remove this menace at an early date. The steps now taken so far as we personally experience are only the visits of certain young men to our houses for signatures. It is another nuisance added to the mosquito nuisance. My experience is that they have not done anything. They simply go over to our houses and after getting our signatures they go away. What they have done in my house is this. They came there once for signature. Then I asked them about their work, they could not explain anything. I gave them my candid opinion about them. They did not turn out for a second time for signature. That is the personal experience we have with these workers.

Therefore, I most humbly bring to the notice of the Government the inadequacy of the steps taken up till now. I do not think the workers are careful about their work, but they are very careful about their salaries. Therefore I would impress upon the Government the necessity of making more vigorous efforts and effecting greater supervision in this direction.

The second part of the discussion is about the unprecedented nuisance in the villages around Mulanthuruthi, namely, Edakkattuvayal, Keecheri, Kanayannur etc., which places had never experienced the mosquito nuisance in previous years. I can speak about the past 30—35 years. But during the months of Meenam and Medam this year there was an unprecedented menace of mosquitoes. It was impossible for anybody to get on there. You may take my words literally. I may assure this House that if such a menace is repeated, I do not know how many people could live there. It is not an exaggeration. There were reports about it in the dailies like the 'Deepam'. Some people attributed it to the Konath bund about which the Chief Engineer will be able to tell us. What the reason is nobody has investigated. Therefore my efforts today is to request the Government to investigate into the causes of that unprecedented rush of mosquitoes there. Mosquitoes are on the increase there. I do not know whether it is due to the workers here. Therefore I recommend this cut motion for the acceptance of this House.

*Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* The Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi like a valiant fighter has been waging war singlehanded, against the mosquitoes in this Council. Of late I have begun to feel that I cannot leave him alone in this matter. The nuisance is so great and the trouble so vehement that unless some positive and effective steps are taken by Government to eradicate the mosquito evil the nuisance will increase even to a greater extent. To a question from the hon'ble member the Minister was pleased to give an answer giving the scheme which he has in mind for mosquito

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member..

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

work. If that is the scheme that is going to be worked, I do not think these mosquitoes will give way. The answer to some extent looks funny also. The mosquito survey of Cochin and Ernakulam was conducted this year. As a result of the survey, it was understood that the incidence in these places of a particular type of mosquitoes—stegomyia variety—is very high. It will be a very harmful kind of mosquitoes transmitting as they do a very dangerous disease, the yellow fever. In accordance with the advice of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, a scheme for the control of mosquitoes has been sanctioned.

I would like the Hon'ble Minister to explain what that scheme itself is. If the scheme is what is contained in the answer which follows, I think it will add greater nuisance.

"Special Staff has been appointed at Ernakulam and Mattancheri to carry on anti-mosquito work. The work of this staff is directed towards the elimination of all possible breeding places of mosquitoes by systematic and periodical inspection of private premises". What is the work they are doing? The work of this staff is directed towards the elimination of all possible breeding places of these mosquitoes by systematic and periodical inspection of private premises. So that over and above the trouble of these mosquitoes, there is the systematic and periodical trouble from these Inspectors, because the work that they are expected to do is simply to inspect. Over and above that, are they going to do anything effective? That is what we ought to know. This is the matter in which I would impress upon the Government that all the resources of the Government should be brought to bear in order to eradicate this evil. I simply rise to speak in order to support this motion.

Mr. President: I think there is a lot of misunderstanding. In fact an expert like the Public Health Commissioner for the Government of India has told us that the breeding places of this particular type of mosquitoes are really in water in dirty *chatties*, cocoanut shells etc., thrown out after domestic use, and that if these things are guarded against, then this kind of mosquitoes will not have a breeding place. If hon'ble members are going to make fun of this and consider these Inspectors as a nuisance, that means we cannot control these mosquitoes.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* That information is not before the House, Sir.

Mr. President: This was strongly recommended by him as a very effective measure. In fact that will become really effective only if two conditions are satisfied. Firstly, the staff must work more conscientiously, and secondly, we must have the whole-hearted co-operation of the citizens of Mattancheri and Ernakulam.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* My point is that they are doing no work.

Mr. President: You are frightening them away by some harsh words.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If you can remove all these dirty things and stagnated water, you deprive them of their breeding places, and if systematically this process is carried on, in course of time these mosquitoes could be got rid off completely. That is all the recommendations given to us. Immediately the Municipality was asked by the Government to take the necessary measures, and the Government also gave a contribution to he Municipality. That is the position.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: സർ, ഇപ്പോൾ ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ട് അവർകൾ പറഞ്ഞ വിവരം കിട്ടുന്നതിനുമുമ്പു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മറ്റു മെമ്പർമാക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരു തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ എനിക്കും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞാൻ താമസിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു രണ്ടു പേർ വന്നു ചിരട്ടയിൽ വെള്ളം നില്ക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ല; ഓട്ടിൽ വെള്ളം നില്ക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലായെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അവിടെ തോട്ടകൾ ഉള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നും പറയാതെ ചിരട്ടയുടേയും ഓടിന്റേയും കാര്യം മാത്രം പറഞ്ഞതെന്താണെന്നു് എനിക്കും അത്ഭുതം തോന്നാതിരുന്നില്ല. അറിവില്ലാത്തവരെയാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ കാര്യം വീടുകളിൽ ചെന്നു പറയാനായി അയക്കുന്നതു്. ചിരട്ടയിൽ വെള്ളം നില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു മാറണം, ഓട്ടിൽ വെള്ളം നില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു മാറണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് അവർ പോകുന്നതല്ലാതെ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് അതു എന്തുകൊണ്ടു വേണമെന്നു് അവർക്കു് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ). ഇതിലേക്കു ലഘുലേഖനങ്ങൾ പർസ്യം ചെയ്യാൽകൊള്ളാം. ഒരു പ്രത്യേകതരം കൊതുകുകളെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുവാനാണു് ചിരട്ടയും മറ്റും നീക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു്. എല്ലാതരം കൊതുകുകളേയും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. President: I think that the staff must be instructed to explain to these people about the precautions to be taken.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: ഇപ്പോൾ അയക്കുന്ന മാതിരി ആളുകളെകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. ഈ വക സംഗതികളിൽ യാതൊരു വിവരവുമില്ലാത്തവരാണു് അവർ. ഭേദപ്പെട്ടു വിവരമുള്ളവരെ ഇതിനു ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തണം. ചില പ്രത്യേക തരത്തിലുള്ള കൊതുകുകളെ കളഞ്ഞാൽ പോര. സാധാരണ കൊതുകുകളുടെ ഉപദ്രവവും ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. എറണാകുളത്തുള്ള സർവ്വ വീടുകളിലും വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനില്ക്കുന്ന കുളങ്ങളും തോട്ടകളും വളരെയുണ്ടു്. ഈ കുളങ്ങൾ മുഴുവനും മൂടുവാൻ കല്പന കൊടുത്താലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഈ എറണാകുളം പട്ടണം ആകെ നന്നാക്കുവാൻ ശരിയായ ഒരു ഡ്രെയിനേജ് പദ്ധതി വരാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വീടുകളിൽ രാത്രി സമയം കിടന്നുറങ്ങുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം അത്ര ഭയങ്കരമായ നിലയിൽ കൊതുകു് ഇവിടെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

Mr. President: As a matter of fact, even if the scheme of drainage that we have undertaken is fructified, it will not by itself eradicate the mosquito nuisance. The Executive Engineer of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Madras, who came here, told me that if the mosquito nuisance is to be tackled at all effectively, even before the drainage scheme is introduced, the Government must take power to compel all householders to cover up all tanks and wells and to raise all marshy places at their cost. Of course, Government or the Municipality cannot undertake the work. The cost is prohibitive. If each householder takes upon himself the responsibility in this direction, it is simple, and if really Government get the support for enforcing that kind of stringent orders in the towns of Mattancheri and Ernakulam, Government will only be too glad. At present there is no provision to enforce the citizens to do this. A new legislation will have to be brought. That must be clearly understood, and in fact during the preliminary survey, the Executive Engineer impressed upon me that fact.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Where are we to get earth from, to cover all these tanks and wells?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Now regarding the suggestion made by the President, I may bring to the notice of this House that many people do not fill up the tanks, wells and low lands because they have no funds. The Government will give them some small loans and then compel them to do so. To simply compel the people to do these things will be hard. Give them some small loans. Then I think it will be quite alright.

Regarding the mosquito work of the staff, there was some humourous comment in the papers—in the Sathianadom—that these officers come in the day time and the mosquitoes come at night, so that the mosquitoes and these officers do not meet each other. Whatever it may be, there is great dissatisfaction with this work and it should be taken up more seriously. There is still another point. I have seen in countries where there are mosquitoes, in order to eradicate mosquito evil, the officers of the anti-mosquito department pouring some medicine every morning over stagnant water etc. I do not know what that medicine is. However it has been found to be very effective. Not only do they compel the householders to remove all these small tins, cans, etc., but they sprinkle some medicine also on the stagnant water thereby destroying these mosquitoes That also may be done by the Government.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: സർ, ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തോട്ടക്കരുടെ പ്രതിനിധി, കുന്നംകുളം ടൌൻ ഇംപ്രൂവ്മെൻറ് സ്കീമിനു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽനിന്നു് ഒരു ഉറപ്പിക കുറക്കണമെന്ന ഒരു ഉപക്ഷേം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുപ്പാം, മുളന്തുരുത്തിയിലും കുന്നംകുളത്തുമുള്ള ജില്ലകളുടെ മതസംബന്ധമായ ബന്ധം ആലോചിച്ചു ഞങ്ങളുടെ പണം പോയാലും തരക്കേടില്ല; മുളന്തുരുത്തി നന്നാകട്ടെയെന്നുള്ള ദയാബുദ്ധിയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. കൊതുകകറിക്കു് താമസിക്കുവാനുള്ള പരിതസ്ഥിതി കുന്നംകുള

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ത്തേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ഉള്ളതു മുളന്തുരുത്തിയിലായതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം എറണാകുളത്തുനിന്നു പത്തു പന്ത്രണ്ടു നാഴിക അകലെയുള്ള മുളന്തുരുത്തിയിൽ കൊതുകുകൾ കോളനൈസ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. മുളന്തുരുത്തിയിൽ ഉള്ള കൊതുകുകളുടെ ഉപദ്രവം പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു് ജൂദരെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമുള്ള ഫിറ്റ്ലറുടെ നയംപോലെ ചെയ്യാതെതരമില്ല. കൊതുകിന്റെ ഉപദ്രവം ഇല്ലാതാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി തോട്ടപ്രതിനിധി പറഞ്ഞ രീതിയിൽ സ്റ്റാണ്ടിംഗ് ഓർഡർ അമെൻഡ് ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമൊന്നുമില്ല. പക്ഷെ കൊതുകിന്റെ നിവാരണത്തിനു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതൊന്നും പോരാ. ഞാൻ ഈ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഒരു ഹെൽത്ത് ഓഫീസറോടു് ഫെറി ബോട്ടിൽവെച്ചു് സംഗതിവശാൽ സംസാരിയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ബങ്കാളിൽ കൊതുകിനെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുവാൻ കൊതുകുമുട്ടകൾ തിന്നു് ഉപജീവിക്കുന്ന ഒരുവിധം മത്സ്യങ്ങളെ വളർത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് എനിക്കു് അറിയാം. അതുപോലെ ഇവിടേയും ചെയ്താൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. കൊതുകുകളുടെ കായ്ത്തിൽ വളരെ പണമൊന്നും ചിലവിടുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മാലക്കടി മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ പണം കടമെടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും. എറണാകുളത്തിനു സമീപമുള്ള ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഈവക ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. മാത്രമല്ല, ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളായ സകലടിക്കുകളിലും കൊതുകിന്റെ ഉപദ്രവം ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിന്റെ നിവാരണത്തിനായി മത്സ്യങ്ങളെ വളർത്തുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* For the information of the House I may say that an experiment was made two years ago to grow a certain kind of fish in tanks and it was found to be a failure. They somehow or other did not thrive.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Where?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In Cochin State at Chittur, and not at Ernakulam.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Conditions in Ernakulam may be quite different.

* മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡൻറ്, സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് സംസാരിയ്ക്കുവാൻപോകുന്ന സംഗതി ഒരുപക്ഷെ ഈ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കോ ഗവൺമെൻറിനോ അംഗീകരിയ്ക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമായേക്കാം. എങ്കിലും എനിയ്ക്കു് മതസിദ്ധാന്തപ്രകാരം ഇതിനെ എതിർക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിനു പ്രധാനമായി രണ്ടു കാരണങ്ങളാണുള്ളതു്. ഒന്നാമതു് വലിയൊരു ഹിംസയാണു നാം ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. (ചിരി) ധാർമ്മിക ചക്രവർത്തിയായ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ പ്രജകളായ നാം ഹിംസാതല്പരന്മാരായി പുറപ്പെടുന്നതു് ഒരിയ്ക്കലും പാടില്ലാത്തതാണു്. "അഹിംസാ പരമോ ധർമ്മഃ" എന്നാണു പുരാണത്തിലെ ആപ്തവാക്യം. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പൻതന്നെ, ബുദ്ധമതത്തിൽ പഞ്ചശീലത്തിലുള്ള "പാണാതിപാതാ വേരമണി സിക്കാപതം സമാതിയാമി" എന്ന ശ്ലോകം ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഇതരവരെയെല്ലാം പഠിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അദ്ദേഹംതന്നെ സന്താ കായ്ം വന്നപ്പോൾ കൊതുകുകടി കൊണ്ടു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല എന്നു് പറ

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യുന്നു! ഒരിയ്ക്കലും നാം അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള തത്വം സ്വീകരിയ്ക്കരുതു്. ഹിംസാ പരമായിട്ടുള്ള യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യരുതു്. കൊതുകു കടിയ്ക്കാതിരിയ്ക്കണമെങ്കിൽ "മസ്ക്വിറ്റോ കട്ടണോ" മറേറാ ഇട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് കിടന്നുറങ്ങണം. ഇവിടെ വളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കി ഓരോ കായ്ങ്ങൾ എപ്പെട്ടുന്ന കൂട്ടത്തിൽ പാട്ടു കേൾക്കുവാനായിട്ടു "റേഡിയോ" തന്നെയും സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനേക്കാൾ എത്രയോ രസാവഹമായ പാട്ടുകൾ പാടുന്ന ഈ ജീവികളെ കൊല്ലുന്ന കായ്ത്തിൽ ഞാൻ എതിരാണു് (ചിരി).

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated):* Mr. President, Sir, I have no difference of opinion on the point that this mosquito pest must be eradicated as soon as possible, but about the suggestion that is made by the Diwan President, I have to submit one or two points. As far as Mattancheri is concerned I have to inform this House that the pipe line has not been extended till now to all the roads that are now in the Municipal area, and even where it extends water is scarce in the summer months. Before pipe water is made available to all the places in the area if the stringent measures to cover up all the tanks and wells are enforced it would be a very hard measure. The other point is, some provision must be made to supply the material by which these tanks can be covered. I think it would be very easy, if the soil that is dug up by the harbour authorities is deposited somewhere and made available to the people for this purpose; otherwise it will be a difficult matter, because these places are very marshy and to have all the materials by which the tanks and marshy places of Mattancheri could be covered will be almost impossible. With these suggestions I conclude.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Sir, I am rather shy to array myself amongst the redoubtable champions of the anti-mosquito campaign. To me it appears that there are more serious foes that are to be annihilated than the mosquitoes. I have been finding that there is a greater tendency for mosquito killing in the people from the South than from the North. If Mr. Panampilli Govinda Menon was not supporting Mr. Moothedan till now in this memorable campaign it is because he was not a permanent resident at Ernakulam till now. But, what I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that the trouble of mosquitoes is equally important at Trichur as it is at Ernakulam. The only difference I have noted is this. So far as the mosquitoes of Ernakulam are concerned, they are larger in size than those of Trichur, but the humming nuisance of both the mosquitoes is equally the same. With regard to the spreading of yellow fever, I am not an expert to express an opinion. My submission is that if any campaign is to be launched upon by the Government its benefits ought to be extended to Trichur which is as big a town as Ernakulam. Last time it was submitted by the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Sivarama Menon that there is a distinction between

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

harmful mosquitoes and innocent mosquitoes and he was thinking of a scheme whereby all the harmful mosquitoes could be annihilated.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether there is any particular scheme in that direction. To my mind it is a very impracticable suggestion. Without caring for the scrupulous delicacies which are suggested by my Budhist hon'ble friend Mr. Panicker, let us go on killing them for our own safety.

*Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* This is a very wide question and this mosquito nuisance is not confined to one part of this State alone. Even with all the up-to-date improvements in sanitation in the Presidency of Madras you have the same nuisance there as you are having here. Here the conditions, as I endeavoured to explain to this House, are much worse than in any other place. Even if the people are willing to carry out all the directions given by the Government, yet the problem of the marshy lands that lie behind the Town of Ernakulam still remains unsolved. It is essential for the success of an undertaking of this kind that there must be complete co-operation of the people and it is also essential that a legislation should be passed by this House to enforce upon the people to carry out the directions given by the proper authorities. All these Regulations will, in the nature of things, be irksome to the people and unless this House is willing to see that such stringent Regulations are passed and placed on the statute book, and authority is given to the Government to enforce them, it will be very difficult even by pamphlets and appeals to the public to change their mentality. It is a matter of common observation that while, we as a race, are very clean in our personal habits in the matter of communal habits, we are far from being very clean. The action can be expressed easily. An Englishman spits in his towel and puts it in his pocket. You simply sneeze your nose and rub it on the table or table cloth. There, one has got the sense of communal cleanliness in his mind whereas in the case of an Indian, personal cleanliness predominates. He does not attach much importance to public cleanliness. I am not criticising. That is the position here. Apart from these considerations the problem bristles with such difficulties that it is almost beyond human ability, in my view—I am not an expert in this matter. It is beyond human possibilities to exterminate mosquitoes completely in this part of the State. But that does not mean that the Government should not resort to take such action. In the light of the discussion that took place here the Government will certainly consider the various standpoints presented to them by this House and one after another this question will be tackled and I may give you my personal assurance that I shall personally interest myself in this question and go through the various literature and

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

practices adopted in various places and I hope I will be in a position to submit some proposals later on. As it is, I am not in a position to give any definite proposal with regard to this question and I do not think my friend Mr. Mathai also is in a position to do so. There is no use of saying that because one is occupying a certain place he ought to know everything. There is no such man who knows every thing. The standard of intelligence is more or less the same on myself and yourselves. All of you are not in a position to make any concrete suggestion and why should you presume that that undefinable thing called the Government are the repositories of all kinds of knowledge and will be in a position to tackle any problem that is presented to them? I say this is a problem which bristles with great difficulties and it is very difficult at this moment to say what the Government would do or could do in this matter. No such clear-cut proposals have been submitted to me by the experts of this Department. I shall, as I expressed in this House, again, look into this matter seriously and in detail and find out the various methods carried out in various places and if any method is feasible here within the limitation of our financial commitments that method will certainly be adopted.

I want to bring another point to this House. This question must primarily be dealt with by the Municipalities themselves. This is no part of the Government work. The Municipality is mainly responsible to look into these questions and the Government can only help them and give them some grants and offer personal help. I would address a letter to these two municipalities and find out to what extent they are willing to co-operate with the Government in annihilating this disease. This is the real situation.

I hope I have explained the real situation to this House and in regard to the fish, I understand that it is thriving well in certain parts outside the State—in Travancore also, as was pointed out by Mr. C. V. Iyyu. We will consider that question also.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: അലപ്പുഴയിലും മറ്റും ലോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കുണ്ടളിലും മറ്റും തളിച്ചതിന് ഗ്രാന്റ് കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Really they are using a kind of heavy oil—crude oil—that serves as a sheet over the water and it is supposed to have a beneficent effect there. That is a method we can adopt. It would be better to find out in detail the result of the experiment in Calicut. I shall see that we get all the necessary information from Calicut as to what extent they have succeeded, and if there is any possibility of success we will certainly consider that question.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What about Mulanthuruthi ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* About the invasion of Mulanthuruthi by the mosquito army ? They have never informed us about their intention of invading your territory nor are we in a position to know the reason why they have shown this partiality towards your place. Seriously speaking I don't know anything.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I want to clear one or two misunderstandings. It was not my idea to redicule the demand made by the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I did not say that.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* As my hon'ble friend Mr. Ayyappan said, the Inspectors do not know their work. What they want is signatures.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The signature is wanted to know that they are doing their work properly.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* My object was to elicit a discussion. We feel powerless in our single-handed fight against the mosquitoes. We want the resources of the Government to help us. I ought really to thank the Government for all the work that has been done. But it is a case of David asking for more.

Mr. President: It is Oliver.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Something has been done. But it is not enough. It is not a case of blaming the Government for not doing anything. We are thankful to the Government for the steps already taken. The disemination of knowledge about prevention is poor, if not wholly unsatisfactory. The point suggested by Mr. Ayyappan strikes at the root of the whole matter.

As regards the question of marshy places standing in the way of our eradicating this evil I don't know how far it is true. We have marshy places in Alleppy and also in Calicut. In that respect Alleppy is worse than Ernakulam. Certain portions of Alleppy are below sea level. Therefore, I can only answer the Minister by drawing a parallel with Alleppy. If it is the case of the Minister that in Alleppy and Calicut they were able to eradicate this evil I think much could be done in Ernakulam. The word 'impossible' will be found only in the Dictionary of.....I don't say whose. Anyhow, that word should not stand in the way of the Minister. Please don't say it is impossible. If you do I may join the no-confidence motion next time it comes up and say that the Minister has no scheme in the matter *(Laughter)*. Therefore, I do not think that the word 'impossible' should be used.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

As regards larvae fish, while I was in Madras I know that they were reared successfully there.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Still there is plenty of mosquitoes in Madras.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I am told that in Madras larvae fish has succeeded. In fact in the well of the hostel I was living in, in Madras, this fish was introduced.

Secondly the help of the Rockfeller Institute may be sought. I don't know how far we will succeed in getting it. In Travancore, they got the services of Dr. Sweet, if I remember right. It is sweet enough to get the services of an expert. I feel we ought to have an expert. It is not proper, if I may venture to say so, for the Hon'ble Minister to say that there is no expert. He must provide himself with an expert. If we cannot get one we must train one.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What I said was that there was no such expert advice tendered by the Department.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I am going to be communal once. I don't want to deprive Kunnamkulam of one rupee by pressing this motion. Kunnnamkulam contains my co-religionists to a great extent.

On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister and the Diwan—President I am not going to press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 2.

Condition of the drainage scheme in Ernakulam and Mattancheri.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,346 for Ernakulam Town Improvement Scheme--Sanitation Works by Re. 1 to bring to the notice of the Government the hopeless condition of the drainage scheme in Ernakulam and Mattancheri.* In fact this cut motion ought to have come first, because mosquitoes are the result of defective drains. Much has been said on the subject and I don't wish to say anything more. In fact the three big towns of Cochin State are Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trichur. Trichur is blessed by nature with an excellent drainage system. Five minutes after a heavy rain there will be no water in Trichur. Unfortunately in Mattancheri and Ernakulam, being low lying places, water will remain. I am very glad to hear that the Government are going to get an expert or rather they have already got the services of an expert and they are going to take up this work without delay. Therefore, I have only to repeat that this scheme may be taken up immediately.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly